

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of reducing cell proliferation or extracellular matrix production in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising a zveg3 antagonist in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable delivery vehicle, wherein the zveg3 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of anti-zveg3 antibodies, mitogenically inactive receptor-binding zveg3 variant polypeptides, and inhibitory polynucleotides, in an amount sufficient to reduce cell proliferation or extracellular matrix production.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein proliferation of mesangial, endothelial, smooth muscle, fibroblast, osteoblast, osteoclast, stellate, or interstitial cells is reduced.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein extracellular matrix production is reduced.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is suffering from a fibroproliferative disorder of the liver.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is suffering from a fibroproliferative disorder of the kidney.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is suffering from a fibroproliferative disorder of bone.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the zveg3 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of anti-zveg3 antibodies and inhibitory polynucleotides.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the antagonist is an anti-zveg3 antibody.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
10. The method of claim 7 wherein the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of antisense polynucleotides, ribozyme-encoding polynucleotides, and external guide sequence-encoding polynucleotides.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the fibrosis is liver fibrosis.

14. The method of ~~claim~~ 11 wherein the antagonist is an anti-zveg3

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the antagonist is selected from the group consisting of antisense polynucleotides, ribozyme-encoding polynucleotides, and external guide sequence-encoding polynucleotides.

17. A method of reducing stellate cell activation in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising a zveg3 antagonist in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable delivery vehicle, wherein the zveg3 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of anti-zveg3 antibodies, mitogenically inactive receptor-binding zveg3 variant polypeptides, and inhibitory polynucleotides, in an amount sufficient to reduce stellate cell activation.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the stellate cells are liver stellate cells.

Alb
Ab